



San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

WING BEAT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2004

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/reg4/wingbeat/>

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Wing Beat News is informational only; it is not designed as a substitute for the regulation books

NOTICE TO HUNTERS:

Due to ongoing staffing shortages, some of the consolidations of check station operations that occurred last year will continue this season.

We are trying hard to maintain hunting opportunities, and we appreciate hunters' efforts to be informed, prepared, and patient.

2-day passes will not be sold at check stations, but will still be available from other normal sources. Annual passes will still be available at the check stations.

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AND SOUTHERN SIERRA REGION *WING BEAT NEWS* IS ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

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REMINDER OF CHANGES TO CHECK STATION OPERATIONS AT TYPE A AREAS IN THE GRASSLANDS

ALL CHECKING STATIONS: On the morning of each hunt after all reservation holders, lottery participants, and those people on the first-come, first-served list have been processed and issued permits, any remaining persons on the lottery or first-come lists that are not present will be removed from the list. If the area reaches its maximum capacity before all persons on the lottery or first come lists are issued permits, remaining persons on those lists will be called to reaffirm their interest in remaining on the waiting list for refilling the area. For example, if the hunt area reaches maximum capacity when lottery draw number 7 checks through, lottery draw number 8 becomes first on the list for refilling the area. If the hunter who drew number 8 is not present, that person will be removed from the waiting list, along with any others not present. If lottery draw number 9 is present, they will be moved to first on the list. A revised waiting list of those still present will be made in which hunters will maintain their order of entry relative to others who are still present and waiting.

Persons on the revised waiting list may indicate a hunting assignment preference. Each person may indicate a maximum of 2 choices. If vacancies first occur for assignments other than the choices indicated, permits will be issued to the next person in line who does not have a specific preference. If a hunter rejects an area of choice, that person will be moved to the end of the list and a permit will be issued to the next person.

At all checking stations, persons signing up for the first-come, first-served list, to be called after the lottery draw, must do so in person. If that person is with another person, they must both sign up as a party or as individuals. Persons signing as a party will receive the same hunt assignment in the same manner as those entering with a reservation or a lottery number. They will not be allowed to take a separate assignment. If they sign in as individuals and only one hunt assignment is available, only one person will receive the assignment. This is intended to provide better and more equitable hunting opportunities. For example, suppose there is a party of two hunting in zone six, field 32 at the Los Banos WLA. There are three blinds in this field: 4, 5, and 12. If this party split and each hunter took a blind, they would control hunting on $\frac{2}{3}$ of the field, depriving another party or individual the opportunity to hunt from one of these blinds.

No permits will be issued and no hunt assignments will be changed after 3:00 p.m. each hunt day. This is for the benefit of those hunting and for the checking station staff. The personnel in the checking stations have several reports that must be completed before the end of the day. This shut off time allows them to complete this work prior to the evening rush as hunters leave the area. For the hunters' benefit, waterfowl are starting to work by 3:00 p.m. and persons moving around setting up decoys, etc. after that time tend to flare birds away from hunting areas, therefore impacting evening hunting. This change has helped reduce hunter conflicts during the evening hunting period.

ADA Accessible Blinds at Los Banos and North Grasslands Wildlife Areas and the Kesterson Unit: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible blinds will be held for eligible persons until 2:00 p.m. If there is no one in line requiring these blinds at that time they will be open to general use. Holding the ADA accessible blinds until 2:00 p.m. is consistent with the Sacramento Valley federal operations and gives hunters requiring ADA accessibility that have trouble arriving early in the morning an opportunity to hunt. This change will unify all of the Grasslands vicinity public hunting operations.

North Grasslands WLA – Gadwall Unit: The Gadwall Unit will not be open for dove hunting. The area has very little dove hunting opportunity and is a major holding area for early arriving migrant waterfowl, such as pintail and green-winged teal, for the south grasslands vicinity. Closing the Gadwall Unit to dove hunting will

reduce disturbance to waterfowl and other wetland dependent species and should improve early season duck hunting.

North Grasslands WLA – China Island Unit: With some exceptions (see * below) during the pheasant season, permits to hunt the China Island Unit during the waterfowl/pheasant season will be issued at the Kesterson Unit checking station. Reservations will be taken from 2 ½ hours before waterfowl shooting time, until 1½ hours before shooting time. Reservations will become void at that time.

The lottery for the China Island Unit non-reservation line up will be held at the Kesterson checking station on the night prior to the hunt. Registration will be between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

The Highway 140 parking lots on the China Island Unit will not be open during the waterfowl season; only interior lots will be available. Also, permits will not be issued to allow persons to park on the Newman Wasteway to hunt the wildlife area. You will be required to park in an interior lot. The primary reason for closing the lots on Highway 140 is safety: The locations of those remote lots require left hand turns across Highway 140 in dark and often foggy conditions. The bridge across Mud Slough will allow hunters to access the "Flood Plain" portion of the China Island Unit from the interior parking areas. Hunters wishing to hunt China Island with a boat may access the San Joaquin River at Great Valley Grasslands State Park on the east side of Highway 140.

*On the first three days of pheasant season, and on regular waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season, permits to hunt pheasants on China Island will be issued at the Kesterson checking station. On all other days that the area is open to pheasant hunting, permits will be issued at the Los Banos checking station.

Volta Wildlife Area: The lottery draw to establish the order of entry after the reservation holders will be held at the **Los Banos checking station**. Registration will be between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. on the evening before the hunt. Those that arrive after the 9:00 p.m. registration time will be issued permits after the lottery draw recipients, by the order in which they are parked in line at the Volta checking station.

San Luis N.W.R. – Kesterson Unit: Blinds 28, 29, 30, and 31 will be refilled as soon as all blinds have been vacated and there are enough people waiting to fill at least three blinds, or at 2:00 p.m., whichever occurs first. Filling these blinds as soon as they are all vacated provides more hunting opportunity. The checking station will start issuing permits to reservation holders 2 ½ hours before waterfowl shooting time.

San Luis N.W.R. – Freitas Units, North and South:

Permits will be issued to reservation holders starting at 6:00 p.m. the evening before the hunt, until 3:00 a.m. on the morning of the hunt. Reservations will be void after 3:00 a.m., which coincides with the time that non-reservation hunters can be processed to access this unit. Therefore, non-reservation hunters can be processed immediately at 3:00 a.m. without conflict to reservation holders.

LOTTERY SYSTEM WILL REMAIN ON ALL MERCED COUNTY WILDLIFE AREAS AND REFUGES

As with last season, the Northern San Joaquin Valley waterfowl hunting areas will be using a lottery system to establish order of entry for all non-reservation waterfowl and pheasant hunters. Although intended to mimic the reservation system, a lottery number does not guarantee entry; the lottery number provides an order of entry if and when space is available.

The following table indicates the hunting areas that will use the lottery system and the corresponding check station that will hold the lottery drawing.

Hunt Area	Check Station Where Lottery Will Be Held
Los Banos Wildlife Area	Los Banos Wildlife Area
Volta Wildlife Area	Los Banos Wildlife Area
China Island Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area (NGWA)	Kesterson Unit of SLNWR
Salt Slough Unit of NGWA	Salt Slough Unit of NGWA
Gadwall Unit of NGWA	Salt Slough Unit of NGWA
Merced National Wildlife Refuge	Los Banos Wildlife Area
San Luis Unit of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (SLNWR)	Salt Slough Unit of NGWA
Kesterson Unit of the SLNWR	Kesterson Unit of SLNWR
North Freitas Unit of the SLNWR	Kesterson Unit of SLNWR
South Freitas Unit of the SLNWR	Salt Slough Unit of NGWA
West Bear Creek Unit of the SLNWR	Salt Slough Unit of NGWA

The checking station staff will begin issuing permits to persons with reservations for each area at the following times:

Los Banos WLA, Volta WLA and the Merced NWR: Two hours.

Salt Slough, China Island, and Gadwall Units, San Luis NWR, including Blue Goose, Kesterson, and West Bear Creek Units: Two and one-half hours.

Freitas Unit of the SLNWR, North and South: 6:00 p.m. the prior day until 3:00 a.m. If vacancies occur, lottery numbers will be called between 3:00 a.m. and shooting time. Refills will be issued permits after 11:00 a.m.

The following table summarizes the timeline of lottery events.

Time	Activity	Explanation
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Lottery Registration	Hunters must register for the lottery in person. Hunters going in as a guest of the hunter that is registered need not enter in the lottery. Hunters may register in the same lottery only once per day, but may apply for several different lotteries for the same day.
9:00 p.m.	Lottery Drawing	Computerized random lottery draw to determine the order of entry for those registered in the lottery.
Shortly after 9:00 p.m.	Posting of Lottery Results	Results from lottery draw indicating the order of entry will be posted outside the checking station.
9:00 p.m. to the beginning of shoot time	Post-lottery Arrivals	Sign up on a first-come, first-served basis for openings not filled by reservation holders or lottery participants.
2 ½ - 2 hours before shoot time (time varies among hunt areas)	Filling the Hunt Area	1 st – Admittance of reservation holders 2 nd – Admittance of lottery draw participants 3 rd – Admittance of first-come, first served list to fill remaining vacancies (Volta WLA hunters will be processed in the order they are parked.)

INFORMATION ABOUT WATERFOWL RESERVATIONS

As with previous years, hunters can apply for reservations using the daily, 5-day, or season-long application forms. Near the first week of September, a renewal packet containing a season-long application and information about the drawing system will be sent to all persons who applied for reservations last year.

All waterfowl reservation applications must be received at the License and Revenue Branch (LRB) at least 17 days before the requested shoot date in order to be included in the drawings. Late applications are disqualified without exception.

What is the single most important thing that you can do to improve your odds of being drawn for a reservation? Make certain that your application is received at the LRB before the application deadline!

Don't let not drawing a reservation keep you from hunting. Many hunters that successfully draw a reservation don't show up, leaving many vacancies. In

fact, usually only fifty percent or less of reservation holders show up.

When applying for reservations, remember that the Merced NWR is open on Wednesday and Saturday only; do not waste a reservation application by marking Sunday for Merced NWR. Also, the West Bear Creek Unit and the goose blinds at Merced NWR will not open until the third Saturday in November.

WATERFOWL & PHEASANT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS

STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

Persons interested in obtaining waterfowl hunt results, hunter numbers, and weather conditions may call (209) 826-6719, 24 hours a day. The recorded message is updated by noon every Monday during the waterfowl season. It covers the Los Banos, Volta, Salt Slough, China Island, and Mendota Wildlife Areas, and the San Luis, West Bear Creek, Kesterson, and Merced National Wildlife Refuge Units.

The Los Banos, North Grasslands, and Mendota Wildlife Areas will be open to pheasant hunting every Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday starting November 13, 2004. The close of the pheasant season has not yet been determined. In addition, these areas will be open to dove and/or pheasant hunting on November 15, 16, 18, 19 and 26, 2004. On these five non-waterfowl hunting days, permits for the Los Banos and North Grasslands Wildlife Areas must be obtained at the Los Banos Wildlife Area check station, which will open at 7:00 a.m. Permits for the Mendota WLA must be obtained at the Mendota WLA check station. The China Island Unit/Kesterson check station is located at Kesterson and will be open Monday, November 15th at 7:00 a.m. to serve China Island and Kesterson pheasant hunters.

We anticipate releasing 150-250 male pheasants at the Los Banos Wildlife Area for the Friday after Thanksgiving pheasant hunt.

LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA

The 6,136-acre Los Banos Wildlife Area was established in 1929. This acreage includes the Mud Slough Unit, which is reserved for junior hunters and their adult escort. Daily hunting capacity is approximately 150.

Restrooms and drinking water are available at the checking station. Chemical toilets are available at other parking lots. No public telephones are available.

Zone 6 is an area with 18 – 22 hunting blinds. Last year, a new rule was put in effect and will remain in effect this year: all blinds at the Los Banos Wildlife Area have a maximum capacity of two persons. For example, each blind may be used by a combination of two adult

hunters, one adult hunter and one junior hunter, or one hunter and one non-shooter. These blinds are available on a first-come basis. The portion of the wildlife area not included in Zone 6 or the closed zones is open to free-roam hunting. Boats are permitted, but not needed.

Junior Hunting Opportunities at the Los Banos WLA

In Zone 6 at the Los Banos Wildlife Area, three tank blinds will be reserved every shoot day for junior hunters and their escorts.

The Mud Slough Unit of the Los Banos Wildlife Area has developed into a nice area for young hunters and their adult chaperones. Six tank blinds and two stand-up blinds are available.

Only one junior and one adult may hunt from a blind.

VOLTA WILDLIFE AREA

The 3,000-acre Volta WLA is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and managed by California Department of Fish and Game for the benefit of wildlife and as a public use facility. Since 1952, this area has served many hunters and has a well established waterfowl hunting program. Late season hunting has improved in the last several years. Daily hunting capacity is approximately 110 hunters.

Chemical toilets are available at the check station and interior parking lots. No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. No hunting blinds are available. Boats are permitted but generally not needed.

When in season, hunting snipe and pheasant is permitted on the days the area is open for waterfowl hunting. Dove hunting is not permitted. Rabbit hunting is not permitted during waterfowl or pheasant season.

New this year, the Volta WLA check station parking lot, including the season-long RV parking area, will be locked on non-hunt days. This action is to provide better security to the RVs left for the duration of the season. The gates will open the day before each hunt day to allow RV owners access to their RVs. For example, the gates will open on Tuesday before a Wednesday hunt and the gates will open Friday and be left open for the duration of the weekend.

The lottery registration for the Volta Wildlife Area will be held at the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

NORTH GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE AREA

The 7,069-acre North Grasslands Wildlife area is better known by the names of the three units that comprise it: the China Island Unit (3,325 acres), Gadwall Unit (1,503 acres), and the Salt Slough Unit (2,241 acres). Since the purchase of the first parcels in 1992, with the most recent parcel purchased in 2000, a great deal of wetland and upland development and restoration has occurred.

China Island Unit. In the same manner as last year, waterfowl and pheasant hunters will obtain hunt permits at the Kesterson check station located on Highway 140. The lottery for China Island will be held at the Kesterson check station on the night prior to the hunt day. Lottery registration will be between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Permits will be issued 2.5 hours before shoot time, beginning with reservation holders.

The public will find good all weather access to the parking lots. The parking lots off Highway 140 will not be open during the waterfowl season. Access by foot or bicycle to the flood plain will be from the west side of the unit either via the bridge over Mud Slough, or under the Highway 140 bridge by Fremont Ford Access (when low water levels in the San Joaquin River allow). This will eliminate the danger of having to make the turns off Highway 140 in the dark and/or fog.

No camping is allowed on the area. Portable chemical toilets will be available starting September 1.

Salt Slough Unit. The check station will be in operation from the beginning of waterfowl season. To be consistent with how Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible blinds are allocated in the Sacramento Valley federal hunting areas, the ADA accessible blind on the Unit will be held for persons with disabilities until 2:00 p.m. If at that time there is no one in line requiring the blind, the blind will be opened to general use. By holding the ADA accessible blind until 2:00 p.m., hunters that have trouble arriving early in the morning are given the opportunity to hunt. Camping is not permitted on the area.

Gadwall Unit. Flooding of a few ponds, including the closed zone should begin by mid-August. Reservations for Gadwall will be available through the statewide system. However, as in the past, waterfowl and pheasant hunting permits for the Gadwall Unit will be issued from the Salt Slough Unit check station.

To be consistent with the way the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible blinds in the Sacramento Valley, the ADA accessible blind on the Gadwall Unit will be held for persons with disabilities until 2:00 p.m. If there is no one in line requiring the blind at that time, it will be opened to general use. There are other blinds on the Gadwall Unit but are neither assigned nor maintained. The locations of these blinds are marked on the Gadwall Unit map. **Beware of rattlesnakes when hunting this area!** Camping is not permitted on the area.

MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA

The 12,000-acre Mendota Wildlife Area is located in western Fresno County. With a capacity of 600, it accommodates the largest number of waterfowl and pheasant hunters in central California. This area

provides many opportunities for both waterfowl and upland game hunting.

Chemical toilets are available at the check station and most parking lots. No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. Boats without motors can be used in the ponds; boats with motors are allowed in Fresno Slough.

The checking station will start issuing permits to reservation holders two hours before shooting time, except on opening day of waterfowl season when permits will be issued three hours before shooting time. Reservations must be presented to the checking station by one hour before shooting time.

Dove and snipe hunting is permitted during the legal seasons on the days the area is open for waterfowl and/or pheasant hunting.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Several national wildlife refuges are open to waterfowl hunting in the San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra Region. While these areas are owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game operates the public hunt program through a cooperative agreement. The San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex is located in Merced County and includes the West Bear Creek, San Luis, Blue Goose, Kesterson, and Freitas Units, and the Merced National Wildlife Refuge. The Kern National Wildlife Refuge is located northwest of Bakersfield in Kern County.

General information regarding hunting at these units may be obtained through the Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex office at (209) 826-0463. Specific information regarding water distribution, habitat conditions, and field management is available by calling the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex office at (209) 826-3508. Information about the Kern NWR can be obtained by calling (661) 725-6504 for recorded information during the hunting season. Consult each area leaflet for map and further area specific regulations.

Steel shot or other approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting on federal areas, including pheasant and snipe hunting. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the field on any federal public hunting area.

SAN LUIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Persons wishing to hunt at the West Bear Creek, San Luis, or Blue Goose Units must check in at the Salt Slough Unit checking station on Wolfsen Road to obtain a permit. Overnight parking for reservation holders and those with lottery or first-come, first served numbers is available at the Salt Slough Unit checking station. Hunttable species at these units include ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens. Within the free-roam area of the

San Luis Unit, snipe and pheasant hunting are permitted during the waterfowl hunt. Shooting days are on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the appropriate seasons.

West Bear Creek Unit: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled the West Bear Creek Unit to open for public waterfowl hunting the 3rd Saturday in November. Call (209) 826-0463 or (209) 826-3508 for additional information. Hunters must check in at the Salt Slough Unit check station and choose one of the six designated wetland units. To control the number of persons hunting each unit, hunters that wish to move to another hunting location are required to return to the checking station to have their permit changed. Maximum capacity will be 34 hunters. Pheasant hunting is not allowed on the West Bear Creek Unit.

San Luis and Blue Goose Units: There are no major changes on the San Luis or Blue Goose Units this year. Flood-up conditions will influence the opening day quota; total maximum capacity for these two units is 110 hunters.

The San Luis Unit is a free roam area. All hunting at the Blue Goose Unit is done from blinds. The area will offer 4-three person stand-up blinds, 3-three person tank blinds, and 1-two person barrel blind on an assigned blind basis.

The San Luis Unit will be open to pheasant hunting in conjunction with waterfowl hunting every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday during the pheasant season. Pheasant Hunting is not allowed on the Blue Goose Unit.

Public telephones, food services, and drinking water are not available. Chemical toilets are available at the parking lots on the San Luis, West Bear Creek, and Blue Goose Units. Boats are not allowed at these three units. Reservation cards are numbered and will be called in numerical order starting at least two hours prior to shoot time. Reservations not present when called are skipped but still may be used until one hour prior to shoot time. Hunters that desire reservations for the Blue Goose Unit should mark San Luis Unit on the reservation application card.

Kesterson Unit: All waterfowl hunting at the Kesterson Unit is accomplished from designated blind sites. There are a total of 17 three-person and 15 two-person blinds. One 3-person blind will be reserved for the mobility impaired; if this blind is still unassigned by 2 pm it may be made available to able-bodied hunters.

Reservation cards are numbered and will be called in numerical order starting 2.5 hours prior to shoot time. All reservations must be presented 2.5 hours before shoot time. The choice of blinds will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Only ducks, geese, coots, moorhens and pheasants may be hunted. The Kesterson Unit is closed to snipe, dove, and rabbit hunting. Pheasant hunting will be allowed during the first two days of the pheasant season at a free-roam pheasant hunting area and in the waterfowl blind area only on the first Monday of the pheasant season. Permits to hunt pheasants will be issued at the Kesterson checking station at 7:00 a.m. Order of entry will be determined by lottery.

No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. Chemical toilets are available at the check station and hunting parking lots. Boats are not allowed.

Freitas Unit: Access to this unit is by boat only with launching points at either Salt Slough at Highway 165 to go up or down stream, or the San Joaquin River at Highway 140 to travel up the river. Maximum boat speed is limited to 5 mph; air thrust and inboard water thrust boats are prohibited. Hunting may be accomplished from boat or land within the area that is posted open to hunting.

The Freitas Unit will be open, beginning at 2:00 a.m. everyday, throughout the waterfowl season. However, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the waterfowl season, Type A permits will be required from either the Kesterson NWR or Salt Slough Unit check stations, depending on where you wish to launch your boat. Hunters desiring to launch at Highway 140 will obtain a Freitas Boat North permit from the Kesterson Unit check station; those who wish to launch from the parking lot on the east side of Highway 165 at Salt Slough will obtain a Freitas Boat South permit from the Salt Slough Unit check station on Wolfsen Road. Reservations are available for both of these locations. Permits for reservation holders will be issued starting at 6:00 p.m. the evening before each shoot day, until 3:00 a.m. Hunters without reservations may register in person at the checking station between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. the evening before each hunt day for a lottery drawing to be held shortly after 9:00 p.m., to establish the order of issuance of permits to fill vacancies after reservation holders on the morning of the hunt.

Due to trash dumping and vandalism problems, CA Dept of Parks and Recreation has been forced to limit North Freitas parking to an area near Highway 140.

Persons arriving after the 9:00 p.m. lottery registration deadline will be added to the list on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of 15 reservations will be issued for each site with a maximum of 15 boats allowed from each of the two launch sites. Refills will be permitted after 11:00 a.m.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays during the waterfowl hunting season, no permits will be needed and there will not be any fees. Launching will be available from the parking lot on the east side of Highway 165 and from Highway 140.

It should be noted that this area is closed to all entry prior to the opening of waterfowl season. Only ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens may be hunted.

MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

All hunting is accomplished from blinds at the Merced NWR. Shoot days are Saturdays and Wednesdays only; shoot time stops at 12:00 noon. Only ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens may be hunted.

Permits will be issued to reservation holders starting two hours before shooting time. Reservations must be presented at the checking station by 1½ hours before shooting time. **Hunters without reservations may register in person at the Los Banos Wildlife Area checking station between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. the evening before each hunt day for a lottery drawing** to be held shortly after 9:00 p.m., to establish the order of issuance of permits to fill vacancies after reservation holders on the morning of the hunt. Persons arriving after the 9:00 p.m. lottery registration deadline will be added to the list on a first-come, first-served basis. Each potential hunter, including juniors, must register in person to participate in the lottery. A hunting partner does not have to be present for the registration, nor be a lottery participant. The Merced NWR parking lot will be open the evening prior to the hunt day.

One mobility-impaired accessible blind is available. If this blind is not taken by a mobility-impaired hunter and partner, it will remain vacant. The two goose blinds will open the 3rd Saturday in November.

Please note that at the Merced NWR, hunters are limited to 25 shells per day. Hunters may not return to their vehicle for additional ammunition. Boats are not allowed. No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. A chemical toilet is available at the check station and hunting parking lots.

KERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Hunter capacity at the Kern NWR is dependent on the availability of water. In the past, opening day has been delayed due to lack of water.

Please note that this area is not in the "Balance of the State" regulation area. Kern NWR is in the "Southern San Joaquin Valley" zone.

Hunt days are Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Waterfowl, coots and moorhens may be hunted during the waterfowl season. Steel or other approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting. Snipe, dove and rabbit hunting are not allowed.

There are blinds available; however, availability depends on water supply. Two ADA accessible blinds may also be available. At least one blind will be available opening day to any disabled reservation holder. In the event that the ADA accessible blinds are not requested by a disabled reservation holder, they will be made available to standby disabled hunters in a separate drawing held two hours prior to shoot time on the morning of the hunt. All persons wishing to hunt in an ADA accessible blind must present proper documentation to the check station staff.

Reservations are available for the waterfowl season and must be presented at the checking station by 1 ½ hours before waterfowl shoot time. The checking station will open 2 ½ hours prior to shoot time. Non-reserved entry permits are issued at the check station on each hunt day 2 hours prior to shoot time. Order of issue will be determined by a drawing held 2 hours prior to shoot time on the morning of the hunt. The area will refill until 1:00 p.m.

2003-04 WATERFOWL AND PHEASANT HUNTING RESULTS FOR GRASSLANDS-VICINITY AREAS

AREA	PHEASANT HUNTERS	WATERFOWL HUNTERS	DUCKS HARVESTED	GEESE HARVESTED	COOTS HARVESTED	TOTAL WATERFOWL HARVESTED	AVERAGE WATERFOWL PER HUNTER	PHEASANTS HARVESTED
Los Banos	140 (530)	4552 (3711)	6907 (4961)	113 (117)	24 (24)	7046 (5102)	1.55 (1.37)	71 (211)
Volta	12 (44)	1708 (1667)	2762 (2811)	19 (6)	110 (118)	2891 (2935)	1.69 (1.76)	11 (16)
Salt Slough	150 (253)	1854 (1580)	2630 (2213)	6 (17)	3 (2)	2639 (2232)	1.42 (1.41)	103 (53)
Gadwall	7 (10)	819 (484)	1874 (901)	12 (9)	21 (5)	1907 (915)	2.33 (1.89)	6 (0)
China Is.	118 (443)	1128 (796)	1115 (1242)	26 (33)	94 (3)	1233 (1278)	1.09 (1.61)	204 (124)
San Luis	33 (91)	4502 (3915)	8683(7558)	55 (43)	15 (37)	8753 (7638)	1.94 (1.95)	58 (25)
West Bear	n/a	847 (772)	1475 (1533)	14 (27)	3 (4)	1492 (1564)	1.76 (2.03)	n/a
S. Freitas	n/a	829 (834)	1461 (1579)	18 (12)	12 (10)	1491 (1601)	1.80 (1.92)	n/a
Kesterson	42 (64)	2626 (2581)	3342 (4110)	36 (62)	2 (2)	3380 (4174)	1.29 (1.62)	25 (20)
N. Freitas	n/a	723 (709)	1478 (1494)	6 (10)		1484 (1504)	2.05 (2.12)	n/a
Merced	n/a	850 (798)	2188 (1842)	141 (133)	1 (2)	2330 (1977)	2.74 (2.48)	n/a
Total	475 (1435)	20438 (17847)	33915 (30244)	446 (469)	285 (207)	34646 (30920)	1.70 (1.73)	454 (449)

() = Results from the 2002-03 Waterfowl and Pheasant Season

n/a = Pheasant hunting is not allowed

AREA RESERVOIRS OPEN FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING

Waterfowl hunting is allowed daily during the hunting season on San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Creek Detention Dam. Boats are highly recommended; hunters with scull boats have enjoyed good success. Call California Department of Parks and Recreation at (209) 826-1196 for specific areas open for hunting, maps, and special rules and regulations.

WATERFOWL BLINDS AVAILABLE FOR MOBILITY RESTRICTED HUNTERS

Many state and federal hunting areas have available Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible hunting blinds to provide waterfowl hunting opportunities for hunters with disabilities. These blinds are constructed to be wheelchair accessible and are located close to parking areas.

Many State wildlife areas have ADA accessible hunting blinds: Gray Lodge, Grizzly Island, Imperial, Mendota, Los Banos, North Grasslands, San Jacinto, Upper Butte Basin, and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Areas. National wildlife refuges with barrier free blinds include Sacramento, Delevan, Merced, Sonny Bono-Salton Sea, and San Luis National Wildlife Refuges.

The ADA accessible blinds for mobility impaired hunters are available to any waterfowl hunter who has been issued a Department of Motor Vehicles disabled placard **identification card**, disabled veteran license plate, or a mobility impaired disabled person's motor vehicle hunting license. A disabled parking placard may not be substituted for the identification card bearing the hunter's name.

Several wildlife areas in the Central San Joaquin Valley have specially designed blinds for hunters who are mobility restricted or impaired. The Mendota WLA has seven blinds for mobility impaired hunters. Originally constructed by Fresno area Boy Scouts as part of their Eagle Scout projects, these blinds allow the hunter to be seated (either in a wheelchair or bring your own stool) with cover around the blind. Paths are graveled from the parking lot to the blind sites and average about 200 yards. Vehicles may be driven to the blind to drop off mobility impaired hunters; however, vehicles must then be parked in the designated parking area.

At Merced NWR, one mobility impaired hunting blind is available. A vehicle can be driven close to the blind to unload equipment, and then must park in the nearby designated parking area. The platform blind allows the hunter to be seated (either in a wheelchair or use the seating provided) with cover around the blind.

The Salt Slough Unit of the North Grasslands WLA has one ADA accessible blind in the main channel of field 50. A 200 yard concrete walkway from a special parking area leads to the 5'x8' blind. It has a metal frame and is camouflaged with grass, cattails and tules. The floor is concrete. The blind is surrounded by water.

The Los Banos WLA has two ADA accessible blinds. Blind 17, located in field 60, is a platform blind approximately 300 yards northeast of parking lot 6. The path from the parking area leading to the blind is constructed of compacted gravel. The bottom of the platform blind is a metal frame with plywood floor. The blind is located over water. Blind 9H, which has a plywood base platform, has been re-furbished and fitted with camouflage netting to hide the entrance. This blind is located approximately 300 yards from parking lot 8 and the path is compacted gravel. It is just off the levee and has water on three sides.

SPECIAL WATERFOWL HUNT DAYS FOR YOUNG HUNTERS

Take a young person hunting and you will not only introduce a person to the wonders of the outdoors, but you will likely see it in a different light as well.

The dates for the special youth waterfowl hunt days have not been set; however, they will most likely occur in late-January or early-February. The youth must be a licensed hunter, 15 years old or younger, and be accompanied in the field by an adult 18 years of age or older. The adult may not shoot.

At this time the exact locations of areas participating in this special hunt day have not been announced, but information in the form of press releases, posters, and flyers will be available from DFG offices and hunter check stations in time to apply for reservations.

HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON THREE ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IN FRESNO AND TULARE COUNTIES

The Department of Fish and Game will open three ecological reserves (ERs) for upland game and limited waterfowl hunting this year. These ERs were obtained by the Department to protect sensitive habitat and threatened or endangered species; with the exception of Pleasant Valley ER, there are generally no habitat improvements or plantings for game species. Upland game and some waterfowl are sometimes found on the areas, and hunting for these species will not affect the primary ER conservation goals. Only shotgun hunting for upland game and waterfowl is permitted. There is no

charge to use the ERs. Camping, open fires, target practice or vehicle access is prohibited.

Kaweah River Ecological Reserve is located on South Fork drive about 8.8 miles east of Three Rivers, in Tulare County. This 103-acre ER is the home to the Kaweah brodiaea, an endangered native plant. The beautiful flowers of this plant can be seen in late April or early May, but it is dormant during the fall hunting season. There are limited populations of California quail, rabbits and mourning dove. Terrain is steep on this ER.

Stone Corral Ecological Reserve is also located in Tulare County and was acquired primarily for protection of vernal pool habitat. This ER has several parcels that are accessible to the public. Mourning dove and a limited pheasant population inhabit this ER. Waterfowl can also be found during the late fall and early winter. Waterfowl hunting could be challenging due to the flat, open terrain.

In Fresno County, just east of Coalinga, is the Pleasant Valley Ecological Reserve. This ER was purchased to protect valley saltbush habitat. San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard may also benefit from this ecological reserve. It provides good dove habitat, and dove are plentiful during some years. There are several guzzlers on the ER that receive use by small populations of California quail, but this is primarily a dove hunting destination. About 480 acres of this ER south of Phelps Avenue have been opened to hunting.

If these ERs are located near you, they may be worth investigating for a hunting trip. Remember to leave the area as you found it and to be aware that you are using habitat that is crucial for some of California's more sensitive species. For information on these areas, call our Regional Office in Fresno at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133, or call (559) 332-2021.

LESSER KNOWN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY/SOUTHERN SIERRA REGION WILDLIFE AREAS OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE

There are several Type C wildlife areas in Merced and Fresno counties that are available for public use. The Type C designation indicates that there is no charge to enter the area. All members of the public who enter are required to sign in at the self-registration booth (if available).

San Luis Reservoir WLA (900 acres) and Upper Cottonwood Creek WLA (4,000 acres) offer opportunities for hunters who like to pursue a wide range of species. Both of these coastal mountain range wildlife areas are open to foot traffic only. Hunttable species include pig, deer, turkey, dove, quail, rabbit during the legal seasons.

Both areas are open to wildlife viewing year round. The spring is a great time to view wildflowers.

Little Panoche Reservoir WLA (780 acres) is open for fishing and hunting the game species that are in season. A small number of waterfowl are taken from the reservoir each year. The area is open for wildlife viewing year round.

In addition to being an excellent place for birdwatching, the O'Neill Forebay WLA (700 acres) is open to dove, waterfowl, quail, rabbit, and pheasant hunting during the legal seasons. The area will be closed to general public use on November 20 and 27, 2004 for the annual junior pheasant hunt program. A hunter quota will be applied to the opening of the pheasant hunting season and on the Sundays following the junior pheasant hunts. A lottery may be applied to grant entry to hunters on those days.

West Hilmar WLA (340 acres) is located on the east side of the San Joaquin River, approximately four miles downstream from Hills Ferry Road. It is accessible by boat only. The area is primarily oak grassland, and has many large oak trees. The area is open to hunting quail, doves, pheasants, rabbits, and waterfowl during the appropriate seasons. Contact the Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex office for detailed information about how to access the West Hilmar WLA.

For additional information, contact the Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex office at (209) 826-0463.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

All blinds at the Los Banos WLA and Mud Slough Unit have a maximum capacity of two persons.

ADA accessible blinds at San Joaquin Valley Type A areas will be held open for disabled hunters until 2:00 p.m.

A lottery system for non-reservation hunters applies to all Type A hunting areas in the Grasslands vicinity.

All members of a hunting party entering on the same reservation or lottery number must hunt the same hunt assignment (eg. same blind, same parking lot, same boat)

When registering for the first-come, first-served line, all hunters must designate whether they will be hunting as a party or solo.

No person shall possess or use alcohol while in the field hunting or engaged in other authorized recreational activities on any State wildlife area or Federal wildlife refuge. "In the field" is defined as all areas except checking stations and designated parking areas. It is a violation of the Fish and Game Code to be intoxicated while hunting.

Merced National Wildlife Refuge lottery registration and drawing will be held at the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

Volta Wildlife Area lottery registration and drawing will be held at the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

Post-lottery arrivals at the Volta Wildlife Area will not sign up for a first-come, first-served list; instead, persons arriving after the 9:00 p.m. lottery will be issued permits in the order they are parked in the Volta Wildlife Area checking station parking lot.

The China Island check station will be closed this year. Permits and lottery numbers will be obtained at the Kesterson Unit check station.

November 13 – Pheasant Hunting Season Opens

November 20 and 27 – Junior Pheasant Hunts at the O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area

The following information was copied from the Department of Fish and Game's Game Bird Heritage Program press releases.

SPECIAL JUNIOR, WOMEN, AND FAMILY PHEASANT HUNTS

FALL 2004 PHEASANT HUNT FOR PERSONS DEPENDENT UPON A WHEELCHAIR

A special pheasant hunt for persons dependent upon a wheelchair is being offered by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program. Providing hunter opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. This hunt is made possible through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters and is supported by the Madera County fish and game fine committee by purchasing pheasants through the disbursement of fine monies collected from fish and game violators.

The hunt will be held on November 21, 2004, from 11:00 a.m. until sunset near the town of Chowchilla on private property. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to the hunt. This hunt can accommodate 25 hunters who are dependent upon a wheelchair. The hunt will take place in a flat alfalfa field and trained pointing dogs will be used to locate the birds for the hunter. Volunteers will also be on hand to push the wheelchair hunters through the field if desired.

Successful applicants and their guest (except junior license holders) must pay a \$13.50 entry fee. **Do not** send the \$13.50 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

How To Apply

Applicants will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one hunting guest who is also dependent upon a wheelchair. When applying for the hunt, provide the following information for yourself and your guest: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, and ④ 2004-2005 hunting license number. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Program
Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a
Wheelchair
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by October 29, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter of being successful in the drawing. For additional information or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133.

FALL 2004 SUCCESS LAKE PHEASANT HUNT

The Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program and the Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association are offering free public pheasant hunting near Springville. In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 700 male ring-necked pheasants will be released randomly from November 13, 2004, (opening day of pheasant season) through December 11, 2004, on the wildlife area of Success Lake.

Please note, the area will be closed to hunting during the junior pheasant hunt (November 20-21, 2004). Providing hunter opportunity and access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. These birds were purchased by the Game Bird Heritage Program through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters and raised from 8-week-old chicks by the Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association. There is no fee or permit required for sportsmen and sportswomen to hunt this area. All laws and regulations regarding the taking of pheasants are in effect. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required for all hunters except junior license holders. **Please note that this area will be closed to all hunting until 8:00 a.m. during pheasant season.**

A map of the Success Lake hunt area is located on page 25 of this newsletter. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program, at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133. The Game Bird Heritage Program and the Tulare County Sportsman Association are pleased to offer this special hunt to the public. Please be safe and courteous. Enjoy your hunt.

FALL 2004 FAMILY PHEASANT HUNTS

Twenty-two San Joaquin Valley family pheasant hunting opportunities are being offered by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program. These hunts are made possible through the

purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters. Providing hunter opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. Up to four family members may apply as a party. When applying for the hunts, you must indicate the family member(s) in your party. See instructions under "How To Apply."

The hunts will be held near the towns of Modesto, Oakdale, Gustine, Merced, Chowchilla, San Joaquin, Kettleman City, Stevinson, Alpaugh and Bakersfield. All of the hunts are in cooperation with private landowners with the exception of the Merced hunt, which will be held on the City of Merced property, and the Gustine hunt, which will be held on the Department's China Island Wildlife Area. The Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern County fish and game fine committees are also supporting the hunts by purchasing pheasants through the disbursement of fine monies collected from fish and game violators. Most of the hunts are also supported by local sportsmen's organizations. These clubs include Safari Club International, California Central Valley Chapter (Oakdale), Merced Fish and Game Club, Inc. (Gustine and Stevinson), National Wild Turkey Federation (Merced and San Joaquin), Avenal Gun Club (Kettleman City) and Exeter Sportsmen's Association (Alpaugh). Two hunts are scheduled per day, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to sunset. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt.

Successful applicants and their guest(s) (except junior license holders) must pay a \$13.50 entry fee (waived at the Gustine hunt in lieu of a two-day or annual hunting area pass). **Do not** send the \$13.50 fee with your application, it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters, **except** junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

How To Apply

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing. Applications may include up to four family members applying as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for **yourself and any other family hunter(s)**: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, ④ 2004-2005 hunting license number and ⑤ hunt number, location (e.g. [H] Merced), date and hunt period in order of preference. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing.

Hunters will be selected for **only one** hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. **Please make your selections carefully.** Changes **cannot** be made after the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Family Pheasant Hunts
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 29, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify other family member(s) of being successful in the drawing. For additional information on any of the hunts or for an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133. The hunt numbers, locations, dates and hunt periods are as follows. List in order of preference on your application.

HUNT LETTER	LOCATION	DATE AND HUNT PERIOD	QUOTA
A	Modesto	Saturday, December 18, morning	50
B	Modesto	Saturday, December 18, afternoon	50
C	Oakdale	Saturday, December 11, morning	50
D	Oakdale	Saturday, December 11, afternoon	50
E	Gustine	Saturday, November 20, morning	50
F	Gustine	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	50
G	Merced	Saturday, December 4, morning	25
H	Merced	Saturday, December 4, afternoon	25
I	Merced	Sunday, December 5, morning	25
J	Merced	Sunday, December 5, afternoon	25
K	San Joaquin	Saturday, November 20, morning	50
L	San Joaquin	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	50
M	Kettleman City	Saturday, November 20, morning	50
N	Kettleman City	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	50
O	Chowchilla	Saturday, December 18, morning	50
P	Chowchilla	Saturday, December 18, afternoon	50
Q	Stevinson	Saturday, December 4, morning	50
R	Stevinson	Saturday, December 4, afternoon	50
S	Alpaugh	Saturday, November 20, morning	50
T	Alpaugh	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	50
U	Bakersfield	Saturday, November 20, morning	50
V	Bakersfield	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	50

FALL 2004 WOMEN'S PHEASANT HUNTS

Six special women's pheasant hunts are being offered by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program. These hunts are made possible through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters. Providing hunting opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. When applying for the hunts, you must indicate who you would like to bring as a guest hunter. See instructions under "How To Apply."

The hunts will be held near the towns of Modesto (Mapes Ranch), Gustine and Bakersfield. These hunts will be held on private property and in cooperation with local organizations. These organizations include the Safari Club International-California Central Valley Chapter (Modesto), Los Banos Soroptimist Club and Los Banos Chapter of Quail Unlimited (Gustine). Two hunts are scheduled per day, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to sunset. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt.

Successful applicants and their guest (except junior license holders) must pay a \$13.50 entry fee. **Do not** send the \$13.50 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters **except** junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

How To Apply

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one female hunting guest. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for **yourself and your guest**: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, ④ 2004-2005 hunting license number, and ⑤ hunt number, location (e.g. [E] Modesto), date and hunt period in order of preference. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Hunters will be selected for **only one** hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. Please make your selections carefully. Changes cannot be made after the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Women's Pheasant Hunts
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 29, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter of being successful in the drawing. For additional information on any of these hunts or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133.

The hunt numbers, locations, dates and hunt periods are as follows. List in order of preference on your application.

HUNT NUMBER	LOCATION	DATE AND HUNT PERIOD	QUOTA
A	Bakersfield	Saturday, December 4, morning	25
B	Bakersfield	Saturday, December 4, afternoon	25
C	Gustine	Saturday, December 4, morning	25
D	Gustine	Saturday, December 4, afternoon	25
E	Modesto Mapes Ranch	Saturday, November 20, morning	30
F	Modesto Mapes Ranch	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	30

FALL 2004 JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNTS

Twenty-four special junior pheasant hunts are being offered to young hunters by the Department of Fish and Game and sportsmen's organizations. Pheasants for these special hunts were purchased by the Game Bird Heritage Program through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters, by sportsmen's clubs and with county fish and game fine monies derived from fish and game violations. Providing hunting opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. All of the hunts are free. Hunters must be signed up or successfully drawn to participate in these hunts. Walk-up hunters will not be admitted.

The hunts will be held near the towns of Modesto (Mapes Ranch), Los Banos, Mendota, Springville, Lake Isabella and Taft. Eight hunts are in cooperation with private landowners, Success Lake hunt is on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land, Lake Isabella on United States Forest Service land and the O'Neill Forebay and Mendota hunts are located on Department of Fish and Game wildlife areas. All hunts are supported by local sportsmen's organizations. These sportsmen's clubs include Safari Club International, California Central Valley Chapter (Mapes Ranch, Modesto), Los Banos Sportsmen's Association and Quail Unlimited-Stockton Chapter (O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area), Fresno County Sportsmen's Club (Mendota Wildlife Area), Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association (Success Lake), Fish and Game Habitat Club (Lake Isabella), and the Taft Sportsmen's Club (Taft). Two hunts are scheduled per day, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to sunset. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt period.

Junior hunters (Junior license holders) must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). The adult accompanying the junior hunter cannot hunt or carry a shotgun. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is **not** required of junior license holders.

How To Apply

Up to four junior hunters may apply as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and any other junior hunter(s) in your party: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, ④ 2004-2005 hunting license number, and ⑤ location (e.g., Taft), date and hunt period in order of preference. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. An application is available to apply for the Modesto (Mapes Ranch), Mendota and O'Neill hunts only. For all other hunts, simply provide the information requested above and mail it to the **name and address of the hunt** you are applying for. Information about each hunt is listed on the next page. **Please note that your applications must be mailed to the proper address. Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter(s) of being successful in the drawing.

Please see the table of available junior pheasant hunts, dates, locations and deadlines to apply on the following page.

FALL 2004 JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNTS

Location	Date and Hunt Period	Quota	Where to Apply and Deadline
Modesto, Mapes Ranch	Saturday, November 13, morning	25	Department of Fish and Game Junior Pheasant Hunts 1234 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133 APPLY BY OCTOBER 22, 2004, BY 5:00 P.M.
Modesto, Mapes Ranch	Saturday, November 13, afternoon	25	
Modesto, Mapes Ranch	Sunday, November 14, morning	25	
Modesto, Mapes Ranch	Sunday, November 14, afternoon	25	
Taft	Saturday, November 13, morning	40	Taft Sportsmen's Club P.O. Box 1245 Taft, CA 93268 (661) 763-5517 or (661) 342-2838 (Taft Sportsmen's Club) E-mail: loneranger@bak.rr.com APPLY BY OCTOBER 22, 2004, BY 5:00 P.M.
Taft	Saturday, November 13, afternoon	40	
Taft	Sunday, November 14, morning	40	
Taft	Sunday, November 14, afternoon	40	
Lake Isabella	Saturday, November 20, morning	30	Lake Isabella Junior Pheasant Hunt P. O. Box 127 Lake Isabella, CA 93240 (760) 379-3482 or (760) 376-2804 (Fish and Game Habitat Club) E-mail: rccduck@aol.com APPLY BY OCTOBER 29, 2004, BY 5:00 P.M.
Lake Isabella	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	30	
Lake Isabella	Sunday, November 21, morning	30	
Lake Isabella	Sunday, November 21, afternoon	30	
Mendota	Saturday, November 20, morning	25	Department of Fish and Game Junior Pheasant Hunts 1234 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133 APPLY BY OCTOBER 22, 2004, BY 5:00 P.M.
Mendota	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	25	
Mendota	Saturday, November 27, morning	25	
Mendota	Saturday, November 27, afternoon	25	
Success Lake	Saturday, November 20, morning	50	Success Lake Junior Pheasant Hunt P. O. Box 89 Porterville, CA 93258 (559) 781-6087 (So. Tulare Co. Sportsman Assoc.) APPLY BY OCTOBER 29, 2004, BY 5:00 P.M. www.stcsa.com Phone in applications not accepted
Success Lake	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	50	
Success Lake	Sunday, November 21, morning	50	
Success Lake	Sunday, November 21, afternoon	50	
O'Neill Forebay	Saturday, November 20, morning	35	Department of Fish and Game Junior Pheasant Hunts 1234 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133 APPLY BY OCTOBER 22, 2004, BY 5:00 P.M.
O'Neill Forebay	Saturday, November 20, afternoon	35	
O'Neill Forebay	Sunday, November 27, morning	35	
O'Neill Forebay	Sunday, November 27, afternoon	35	

FALL 2004 JUNIOR QUAIL HUNTS

Three special junior quail hunts are being offered to junior hunters by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program, two on private ranches and one on property owned and managed by the Sierra Foothill Conservancy. All hunts are free. Providing hunting opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. These wild bird hunts are not recommended for the novice or inexperienced hunter. Hunting will be permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.

One hunt will be held near Tollhouse (Black Mountain) in eastern Fresno County on October 16, 2004. Another hunt will be held near Springville (River Ridge Ranch) in eastern Tulare County on October 16, 2004. The final hunt will be held near Friant (Millerton Lake) in eastern Fresno County on October 23, 2004.

Six junior hunters will be selected for the Friant and River Ridge Ranch hunts, and ten junior hunters will be selected for the Black Mountain hunt.

Junior hunters (junior license holders) must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). The adult accompanying the junior hunter cannot hunt or carry a shotgun. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is **not** required for junior license holders.

How To Apply

To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must submit in writing their choice of hunts listed in order of preference. Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing for one hunt only. Applications may include up to two hunters applying as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for **you and your guest**: ① hunt area (i.e., Millerton Lake [C]), ② name, ③ address, ④ daytime and evening telephone number and ⑤ 2004-2005 hunting license number.

Hunters may apply only **once**, either as an applicant **or** as a guest for each area. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. **Please make your selection(s) carefully.** Changes **cannot** be made after the drawing. Applications must be returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Junior Quail Hunt
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, September 24, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. For additional information about the hunt or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133.

REGIONAL OFFICES ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

To obtain information regarding the various areas or DFG programs, call the Regional Office near the area you want to visit. Listed below are the phone numbers for the Regional Offices. Please note that several area codes have been changed.

Northern CA & North Coast Region
601 Locust, Redding CA 96001
(530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley & Central Sierra Region
1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova CA 95670
(916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region
7329 Silverado Trail, (PO Box 47)
Yountville CA 94599
(707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra Region
1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno CA 93710
(559) 243-4005

South Coast Region
4949 View Ridge Ave., San Diego CA 92123
(858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra & Inland Deserts Region
4775 Bird Farm Road, Chino Hills CA 91709
(909) 597-9823

Marine Region
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr. #100, Monterey CA 93940
(831) 649-2870

Other Department of Fish and Game Offices:

Fish & Game Headquarters, Sacramento
(916) 653-7664

License & Revenue Branch
3211 S Street, Sacramento 95816
(916) 227-2245

The San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Wing Beat News newsletter is edited by Jack Sparks (losbanosinfo@dfg.ca.gov).

Alternate communication format available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call Jack Sparks at (209) 826-0463 or the California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929 or 711.

Application for San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region 2004 Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair

Please Print Clearly

All areas must be completed (including guest information, if bringing guest)
Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected

Name

Last M. I.

First (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No. - ☐ Check here if Lifetime license

Address

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime - - Extension

Evening - -

Guest Hunter's Name

Last M. I.

First (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No. - ☐ Check here if Lifetime license

Address

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime - - Extension

Evening - -



Return or mail this application to:

Game Bird Heritage Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair
Department of Fish and Game
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on
October 29, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing.

or fax:
(559) 243-4022

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Application for San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region 2004 Family Pheasant Hunts



F

Please Print Clearly

All areas must be completed (including family member[s] information)
Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected

Name

Last M. I.

First (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No. - ☐ Check here if Lifetime license

Address

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime - - Extension

Evening - - Extension

Family Member 1 Name

Last M. I.

First (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No. - ☐ Check here if Lifetime license

Address

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime - - Extension

Evening - - Extension

Selection Instructions:

Hunters may only apply once, either as an applicant or as a family member, for each hunt. Select your hunts in order of preference, beginning with your first choice, by entering the corresponding hunt letter in box "1" as your first choice. An application may include up to twenty-two hunts. However, you and your family member(s) will only be selected for one hunt.

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6	7	8	9	10	
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11	12	13	14	15	16
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17	18	19	20	21	22
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- A Modesto, December 18, Morning
- B Modesto, December 18, Afternoon
- C Oakdale, December 11, Morning
- D Oakdale, December 11, Afternoon
- E Gustine, November 20, Morning
- F Gustine, November 20, Afternoon
- G Merced, December 4, Morning
- H Merced, December 4, Afternoon
- I Merced, December 5, Morning
- J Merced, December 5, Afternoon
- K San Joaquin, November 20, Morning
- L San Joaquin, November 20, Afternoon
- M Kettleman City, November 20, Morning
- N Kettleman City, November 20, Afternoon
- O Chowchilla, December 18, Morning
- P Chowchilla, December 18, Afternoon
- Q Stevinson, December 4, Morning
- R Stevinson, December 4, Afternoon
- S Alpaugh, November 20, Morning
- T Alpaugh, November 20, Afternoon
- U Bakersfield, November 20, Morning
- V Bakersfield, November 20, Afternoon

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on
October 29, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing.

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.



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Family Member 2 Name																								
Last															M. I.									
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Family Member 3 Name																								
Last																				M. I.				
First										(Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)														
Hunting License Number																								
No.										-										<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if Lifetime license				
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Street																								
City															State					Zip Code				
Telephone																								
Daytime										Extension														
Evening																								

Return or mail this application to:
Game Bird Heritage Family Pheasant Hunts
Department of Fish and Game
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

or fax:
(559) 243-4022

**Application due at Department of Fish and Game on
October 29, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. To be eligible for the drawing.**

W

20

J

All areas must be completed (including guest[s] information, if bringing guest[s])
Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected

Game Bird
HERITAGE

(OVER)

Application for San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region 2004 Junior Quail Hunts

Please Print Clearly

All areas must be completed (including guest information, if bringing guest)
Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected



Name (Junior Hunter)

Last M. I.

First (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No. - ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime - - Extension

Evening - - Extension

Guest Name (Junior Hunter)

Last M. I.

First (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No. - ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime - - Extension

Evening - - Extension

Selection Instructions:

Hunters may only apply once, either as an applicant or as a guest for each area and hunt period. Select your hunts in order of preference, beginning with your first choice, by entering the corresponding hunt letter in box "1" as your first choice. An application may include up to three hunts. However, you and your guest will only be selected for one hunt.

1 2 3

A Black Mountain
B River Ridge Ranch
C Millerton Lake

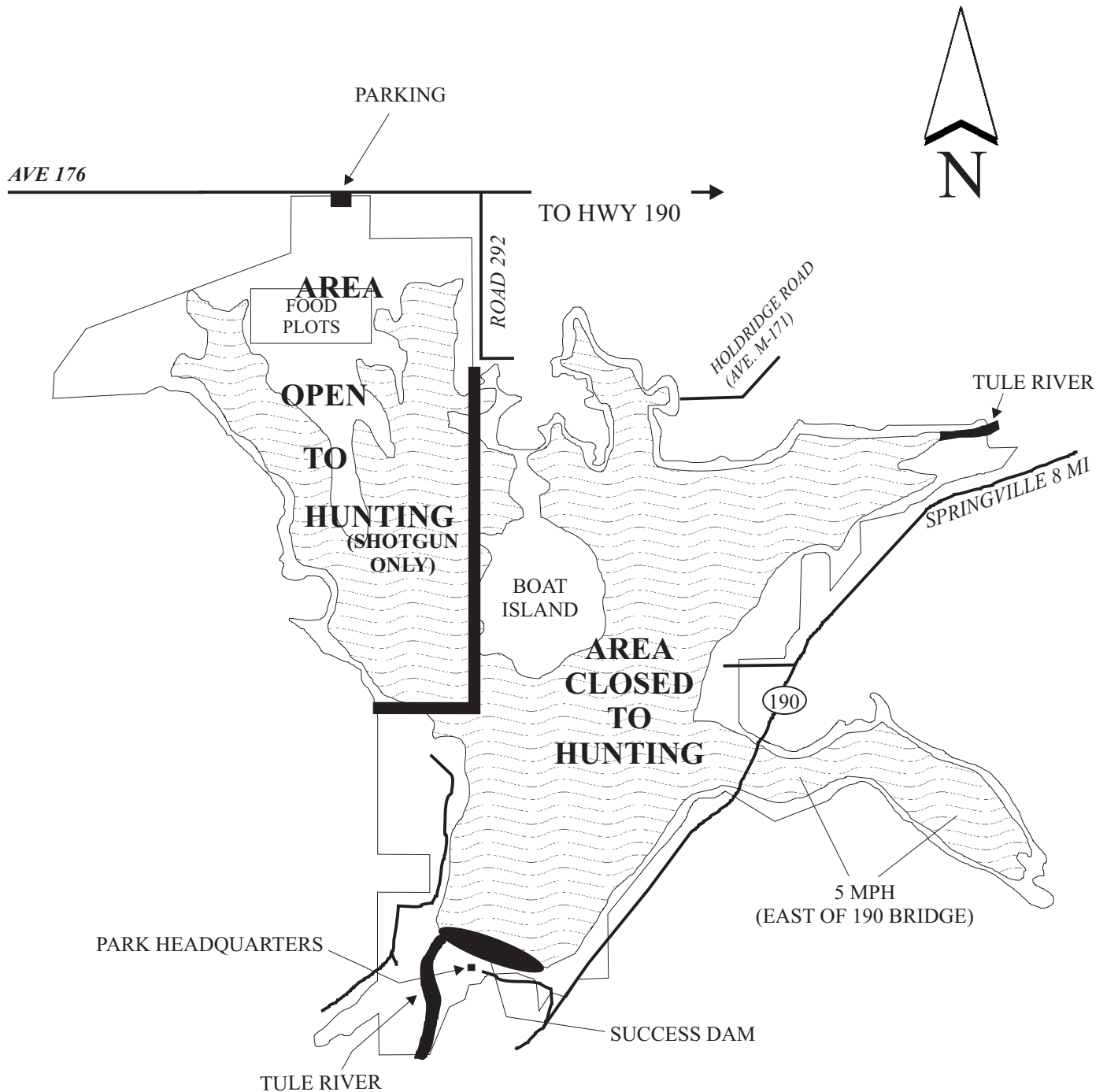


Return or mail this application to:
Game Bird Heritage Junior Quail Hunt
Department of Fish and Game
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

or fax:
(559) 243-4022

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on
September 24, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing.

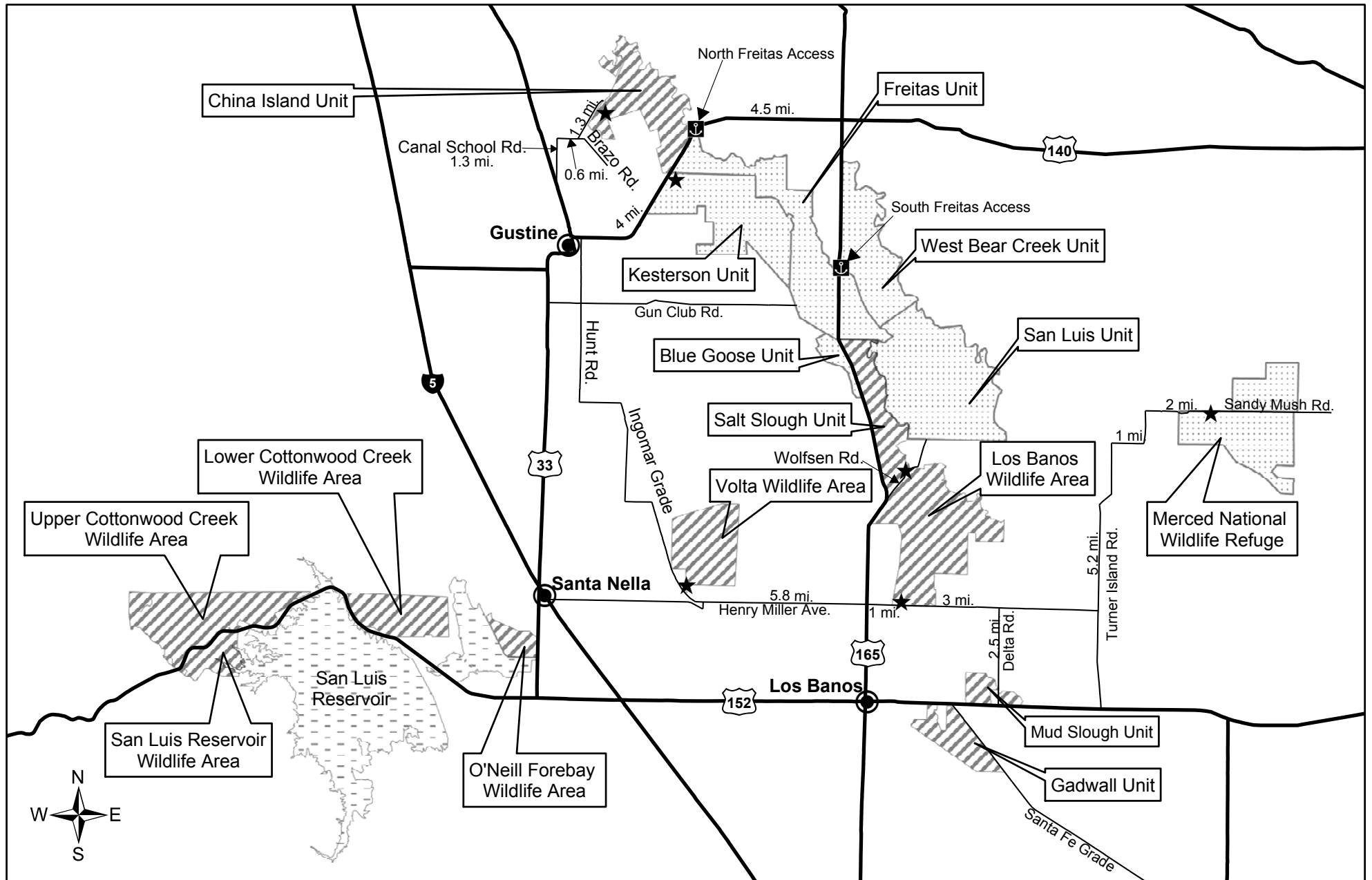
Success Lake Pheasant Hunt






CAUTION: WATER LEVELS MAY BE SHALLOW AND DEPTHS CHANGE FREQUENTLY. VISITORS ARE REMINDED THAT UNDERWATER HAZARDS AND WATER DEPTHS ARE NOT POSTED AND SHOULD BE CHECKED BEFORE USE.

See article on page 11
for additional information

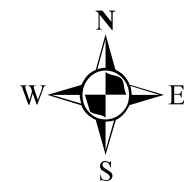
Northern San Joaquin Valley Hunting Areas



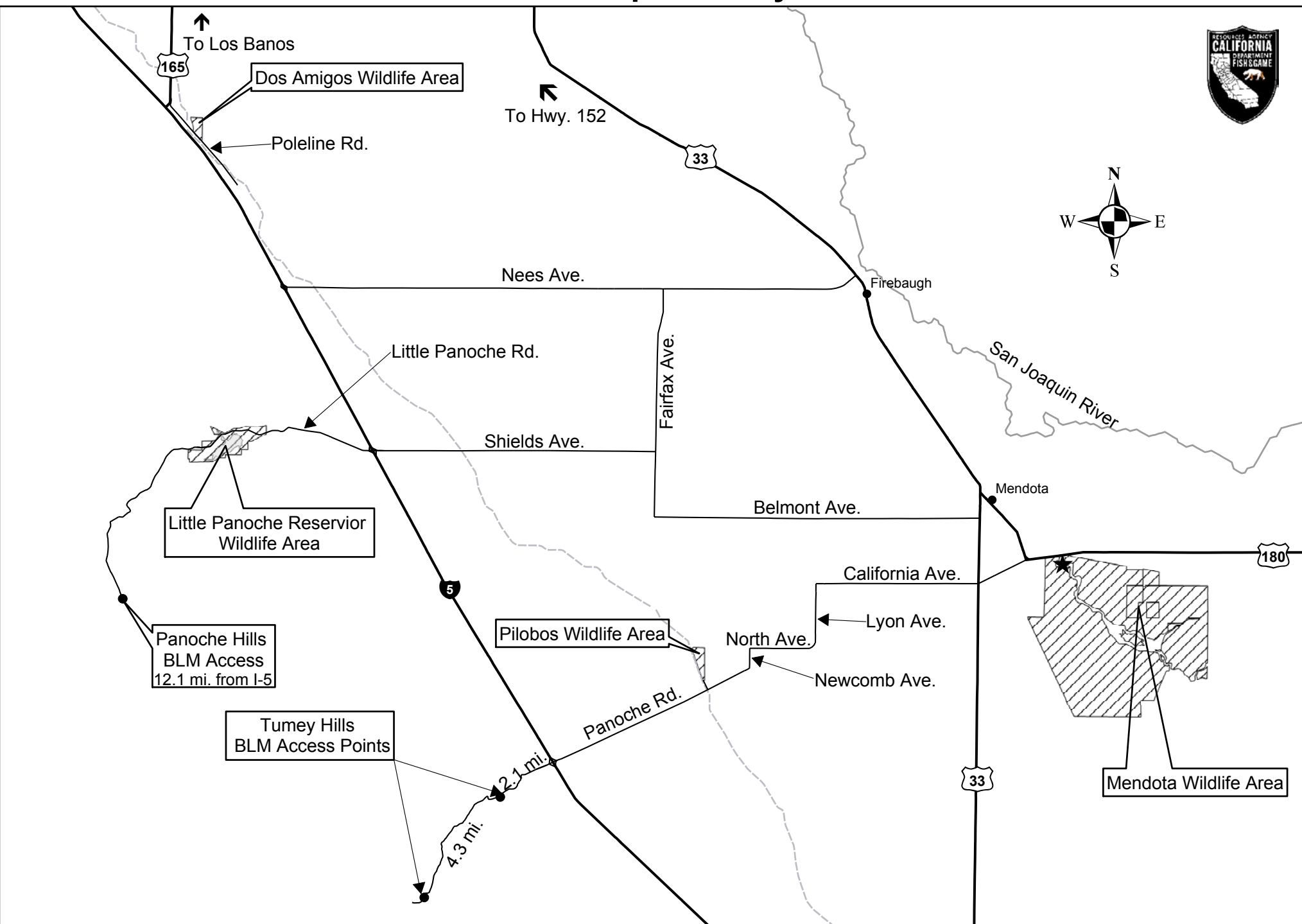
3 1.5 0 3 6 Miles

 State Wildlife Area
 National Wildlife Refuge
 Check Stations

Western San Joaquin Valley Hunt Areas



- ★ Check Stations
- CA Aqueduct



2004-2005 WATERFOWL AND PHEASANT SEASON FEE SCHEDULE

The following table indicates current fees for the permits and hunting stamps that will be available through check stations this year. Two-day passes will not be sold at check stations, but will be available from regular license agents.

One-day Reservation	\$1.25
Five-day Reservation	\$6.25
Type A One-day Entry Permit	\$13.50
Type A Season Pass	\$105.25
State Duck Stamp	\$13.25
State Upland Stamp	\$6.50